

U.S. Hogs For Dogs, Inc.

Suggested Reading List For Educators

Books about Working Dogs and about People with Disabilities (Last revised: 6/5/04)

Alexander, Sally Hobart. 2000. *Do You Remember the Color Blue? And Other Questions Kids Ask about Blindness*. ISBN: 0-670-88043-4. From the book jacket: "Blindness is a mystery to those who haven't experienced it. Sally Hobart Alexander lost her sight completely at the age of twenty-six, and although she found the experience devastating and difficult, eventually her life changed in positive ways she never expected. In *Do You Remember the Color Blue?* Sally answers thirteen thought-provoking questions that children have asked over the years about being blind. Each questions addresses a different aspect of Sally's experience, from coping with her loss and dealing with people who don't know how to treat a blind person, to meeting a future husband she couldn't see and being a blind mom. Some of the questions include details about the very basics of living with blindness – reading, writing, getting dressed, walking with a cane, having a guide dog – while others are perennial items of curiosity for kids, such as: Would you rather be blind or deaf? Or How did you go blind?. Illustrated with personal snapshots from Sally's life – from before and after she lost her sight – along with photographs of innovative gadgets used by the visually impaired, *Do You Remember the Color Blue?* is a candid conversation that will change children's ideas about what it means to be blind."

Berenstain, Stan & Jan. 1993. *The Berenstain Bears and the Wheelchair Commando*. ISBN: 0-679-84034-6 (pbk). From the back cover: "Can 'Wheels' slam-dunk Too-Tall? Too-Tall makes fun of Harry. He calls him 'Wheels,' because Harry's in a wheelchair. But, hey! Harry can handle it. In fact, he challenges Too-Tall to a basketball game! Can 'Wheels' really win?"

Carlson, Nancy. 1990. *Arnie and the New Kid*. ISBN: 0-14-050945-3. From the front cover: "Top cat Arnie teases Philip because he is confined to a wheelchair. Yet when Arnie falls down the school steps and breaks a leg, twists a wrist, and sprains a tail, he begins to see life from a different perspective...." *Booklist*".

Carter, Alden R. 2000. *Stretching Ourselves: Kids with Cerebral Palsy*. ISBN: 0-8075-7637-9. A good picture book about kids with cerebral palsy, every day living scenes and lots of focus on the children and what they like and are good at and their plans for the future.

Debroitner, Dr. Rita Kirsch. 2002. *Please...Don't Eat the Crayons, Harry!* ISBN: 0-971-2841-1-3. From the back cover: "Meet Harry! A Service Dog. Harry is an adorable, frolicking Bichon Frise who assists in the Rhinecliff Non-Drug A.D.D./A.D.H.D. Program to help adults and kids effectively and successfully move beyond Attention Deficit Disorder. The Bichon Frise is know for its loving, frolicking, happy personality. If laughter is good therapy, Harry provides the best. He moves any person from an

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uptight ‘fight or flight’ personality to a connected, calmer, ‘alpha’ state of being. This is an important first step or moving beyond Attention Deficit Disorder.”

Derrico, Karen. 1999. *Unforgettable Mutts: Pure of Heart not of Breed*. ISBN: 0-939165-34-1. Stories about dogs, including service dogs, who have helped people, starred in movies and TV shows, and dogs who have unusual hobbies (underwater swimming, surfing, etc.)

Eames, Ed and Toni. 1997. *Partners in Independence: A Success Story of Dogs and the Disabled*. ISBN: 0-87605-505-1. From the cover: “The gentle guide dog leading a blind human partner through a busy matrix of crowded streets is surely a familiar sight. Less, familiar, but just as quietly dramatic are the hearing and service dogs brightening quality of life for the deaf, hard of hearing and physically disabled who choose to be an active part of the world around them. *Partners in Independence* is about those dogs and those whose lives they enhance. These are the stories of the visionary people who recognized the potential and made possibilities into realities. Thanks to the dogs and people you will meet in this book, thousands enjoy more enriched lives. They pursue careers, attend school, make friends and cope with the normal situations each day brings. Their dogs are their best friends in the truest sense of the word.”

Gans, Lydia. 1997. *Sisters, Brothers, and Disability*. ISBN: 1-57749-044-4 (pbk). From the back cover: “*Sisters, Brothers, and Disability* tells the stories of twenty-six families raising children with special needs at home. Author/photographer Lydia Gans has assembled 142 photographs of these families to produce a moving photo essay that shows the compassion, patience, and matter-of-factness sisters and brothers share as they deal with the challenges of living with a differently-abled sibling.”

Getskow, Veronica & Konczal, Dee. 1996. *Kids with Special Needs: Information and Activities to Promote Awareness and Understanding*. ISBN: 0-88160-244-2. From the back cover: “What’s it like to write when the letters look backward to you? How does it feel to be the last one to finish an assignment? How do you get the attention of someone who can’t hear you? Is it okay to ask someone about his or her disability? Now, for the first time, your students can actually ‘experience’ what it’s like to have a disability. Through simulations, games, and activities, students discover for themselves the difficulties faced by children with disabilities... This comprehensive, 200-page guide helps children develop empathy for others while reducing their own fears and misconceptions about people who seem different. Plus, it introduces students, teachers, and parents to major types of disabilities as well as fifteen common health conditions such as allergies, diabetes, and asthma.”

Hornsby, Alison. 2000. *Helping Hounds: The Story of Assistance Dogs*. ISBN: 1-86054-157-7. From the cover: “Dogs and people share very special relationships, but for those that rely on their dogs not only for companionship but also to maintain their independence and dignity, the bond is incredibly close. In *Helping Hounds*, dog trainer

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Alison Hornsby, who has worked with Guide Dogs for more than 20 years, examines exactly what is involved in training a Guide Dog, Hearing Dog, Dog for the Disabled, and Therapy Dog, from puppyhood right through to adulthood.”

Hubbard, Coleen. 1998. *One Golden Year: A Story of a Golden Retriever*. ISBN: 0-590-18975-1. From the back cover: “Caitlin Connor and her mother agree to raise Albion until he is old enough to help a disabled person. Caitlin teaches the puppy commands, keeps up with his feeding schedule, plays with him, and grooms him carefully. It’s hard work. But watching Alby grow fills Caitlin with joy and pride. As each month passes, she loves the puppy more. How will she ever let him go?”

Jackson, Donna M. 2003. *Hero dogs: Courageous canines in action*. ISBN: 0-316-82681-2. From the jacket: “Dogs have long been faithful companions to humans, but there are some extraordinary canines with unique skills and superior work ethics that go above and beyond their traditional roles as pets. These are the hero dogs. From bomb-sniffing dogs and contraband dogs to guide dogs, therapy dogs, and search and rescue dogs, these specially trained canines play an important part in the lives of many. On a daily basis, whether we realize it or not, these devoted animals are here to assist, protect, comfort, and, in many case, rescue us.”

Kennedy, Patricia Burlin & Christie, Robert. 1998. *Through Otis’ Eyes: Lessons from a Guide Dog Puppy*. ISBN: 0-87605-473-4. From the jacket: “Otis is a puppy with a very special purpose. He will one day become the beloved companion of a blind person who is seeking more independence and mobility. But, even as a young pup, Otis has already begun his service to others, opening the eyes of the family that rears him to a greater understanding of life...Filled with illustrations depicting the four seasons, the book imbues the experiences, joys and frustrations of bringing up a mischievous Labrador Retriever puppy. There are reflections upon the traits of dogs that human seek to emulate, such as faithfulness and forgiveness, living life in the present and loving unconditionally.”

Kersjes, Mike. 2002. *A Smile as Big as the Moon: A Special Education Teacher, His Class, and Their Inspiring Journey through U.S. Space Camp*. ISBN: 0-312-30314-9 (pbk). From the back cover: “Mike Kersjes always believed that his students could do anything – even attend the prestigious Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama, where some of America’s best and brightest high school students compete in a variety of activities similar to those experienced by NASA astronauts training for space shuttle missions. The challenge was convincing everyone else that the kids in his special education class, with disabilities including Tourette’s syndrome, Down’s [sic] Syndrome, dyslexia, eating disorders, and a variety of emotional problems, would benefit from the experience and succeed. With remarkable persistence, Kersjes broke down one barrier after another, from his own principal’s office to the inner sanctum of NASA, until Space Camp finally opened its doors. After nine months of rigorous preparation, Kersjes’s class arrived at Space Camp, where they turned in a performance beyond everyone’s expectations.”

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Kraushaar, Karen Grassmuck. 1999. *Gas Station Charlie*. ISBN: 0-9676410-0-4.

From the back cover: “Imagine filling up your tank at the local gas station when, Surprise! A beautiful friendly dog comes to collect your money. Cash? Credit? Charlie took care of it all, with a wagging tail and eager smile that brightened everyone’s day. The entrepreneurial golden retriever lived in Saline, Michigan and helped Rick and Harry Parsons at the Marathon station on Michigan Avenue until he died in 1999. Charlie’s son, Benjamin, is now following in his father’s paw prints.”

Lasker, Joe. 1980. *Nick Joins In*. ISBN: 0-8075-5612-2. A story about a young boy in a wheelchair and how he learns about going to school and participating in activities there.

Lewis, Kim. 1992. *Floss*. ISBN: 1-56402-010-X (trade); ISBN: 1-56402-271-4 (pbk).

From the cover: “A story about the importance of taking time to play. Floss can help launch discussions with children about balancing responsibilities with fun, and about growing up and growing old. It also offers a fascinating glimpse into life on a sheep farm in Scotland and may inspire children to learn more about farming, working dogs, and other animals that are trained to help people.”

Lewis, Kim. 1998. *Just like Floss*. ISBN: 0-7636-0684-7. From the jacket: “When Floss has puppies, the children desperately want to keep one. ‘Maybe,’ their father agrees. ‘We could use another collie just like Floss to work with the sheep on the farm.’ But the children love each and every one of the puppies – how will they decide which one to keep?...Kim Lewis...[tells] an engaging story about the magical moment when a young border collie first realizes his natural instincts.”

MacLachlan, Patricia. 1980. *Through Grandpa’s Eyes*. ISBN: 0-06-443041-3 (pbk).

From the cover: “John’s Grandpa is blind. But Grandpa has his own way of seeing. And for John this makes a day spent with Grandpa an adventure – of new sounds and smells and ways of doing everyday things.”

McMahon, Patricia. 1996. *Summer Tunes: A Martha’s Vineyard Vacation*. ISBN: 1-56397-572-6.

From the jacket: “Ten-year-old Conor Healy loves music – especially rock music – and aspires to become a DJ someday. So it’s no surprise that the highlight of his summer vacation on Martha’s Vineyard is a visit to one of the island’s great DJs – Barbara Dacey of WMVY. But all sorts of things conspire to delay the visit – a family boat ride, a day at the beach on Chappaquiddick, visitors from off-island – all the usual vacation activities. Finally the big day arrives, however, and the visit to the radio station is everything Conor hoped it would be. Born with cerebral palsy, Conor uses a

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wheelchair to get around. Sometimes this presents unique problems – which Conor and his family handle with both humor and grace.”

Meyer, Donald (Ed.). 1997. *Views from Our Shoes: Growing Up with a Brother or Sister with Special Needs*. ISBN: 0-933149-98-0. From the back cover: “I can’t imagine having a plain old sister,” writes ten-year-old Ryan Clearwater. He is one of 45 siblings in *Views from Our Shoes* who share their experience as the brother or sister of someone with a disability. The kids whose essays are featured here range in age from four to eighteen and are the siblings of youngsters with a variety of special needs, including autism, cerebral palsy, developmental delays, ADD, hydrocephalus, visual and hearing impairments, Down and Tourette syndromes. Their personal tales introduce young siblings to others like them, perhaps for the first time, and allow them to compare experiences. A glossary of disabilities provides easy-to-understand definitions of many of the conditions mentioned.”

Meyers, Cindy. 1999. *Rolling Along with Goldilocks and the Three Bears*. ISBN: 1-890627-12-7 (hardcover). A retelling of the folktale with the littlest bear in a wheelchair. Goldilocks gets a disability awareness lesson. “Baby Bear and Goldilocks were the best of friends and they played all kinds of games together. When Baby Bear got tired, Goldilocks offered to push his chair for him. Sometimes he said yes, and sometimes he just said no.”

Needles, Colleen & Carlson, Kit. 2000. *Working Dogs: Tales from Animal Planet’s K-9 to 5 World*. ISBN: 1-56331-843-1 (hardcover). From the jacket: “When is ‘working like a dog’ a good thing? Find out in this special book, which invites you to spend a day on the job with a groundskeeper, a chaplain, a cheerleader, a state trooper, and twenty-three other hard-working professionals who give their all for the boss and expect little more in return than a pat on the head.”

Ogden, Paul. 1992. *Chelsea: The Story of a Signal Dog*. ISBN: 0-316-63375-5. Non-fiction story of Paul Ogden who first trains his own Hearing (Signal) Dog and then goes to Canine Companions for Independence to get his new Signal Dog, Chelsea. Paul describes how both of his dogs gave him and his wife more security and a better quality of life and ease of participating in everyday activities. He also discusses the view of these dogs by the public.

O’Neill, Catherine. 1988. *Dogs on Duty*. ISBN: 0-87044-659-2. From p. 5: “Over the centuries, dogs proved that, with training, they could perform many duties. They helped find food, herded sheep, and hauled crops to market. Today, dogs act as eyes or ears or legs for the disabled. They rescue people in danger and help police catch criminals. Dogs

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are good at many things. The most important, perhaps, is just being our friends.” A National Geographic Society book.

Paul, Richard. 1999. *Red Riding Hood Races the Big Bad Wolf*. ISBN: 0-9653238-1-1. From the back cover: “Red Riding Hood views her wheelchair as an ability to race, and defeat, the Big Bad Wolf to Grandma’s house. Award winning author Richard Paul and award winning artist Eugene Clark have taken the classic Red Riding Hood tale and turned it into a fun filled, educational, ability awareness story with a message.”

Piper, Deb. 1996. *Jake’s the Name, Sixth Grade’s the Game*. ISBN: 0-88092-135-8. From the back cover: “Jake had a way of getting into trouble. Call it adolescence, or perhaps it was his sense of humor or the fact that he got along so well with his classmates. Maybe it was his once-normal friends who were now acting goofy in front of girls. Maybe it was the way he viewed his parents. Maybe it was the extra learning equipment he brought to class that made his teachers’ days...unforgettable. Jake is deaf, but that had nothing to do with it.”

Powell, Consie. 1999. *Old Dog Cora and the Christmas Tree*. ISBN: 0-8075-5968-7. From the jacket: “Every Christmas for as long as she can remember, old Cora has helped to haul in the Christmas tree. This year, Mom says Cora is too creaky to pull a heavy load. The old dog heads to the woods with the family, but she soon realizes something awful: the other dogs are starting the job without her! Consie Powell’s evocative woodcuts illustrate her memorable Christmas story about work, love, and a dog with heart.”

Powers, Mary Ellen. 1986. *Our Teacher’s in a Wheelchair*. ISBN: 0-8075-6240-8 (lib.bnd.) The true story of a young man who, after a lacrosse accident, ends up with a damaged spinal cord and uses a wheelchair. He became a teacher at a daycare center. This book shows all the things he can do and how he works with the children and what his daily life is like.

Pulver, Robin. 1999. *Way to Go, Alex!* ISBN: 0-8075-1583-3. From the book: “*Way to Go, Alex!* is the story of Carly’s relationship with her older brother, Alex, who has mental retardation. Through her family’s experiences with Special Olympics, Carly learns to focus on Alex’s ability –not his disability – and comes to share in the joys of his achievements.”

Rossiter, Nan Parson. 1997. *Rugby & Rosie*. ISBN: 0-525-45484-5. “Rosie is not ordinary pup – she has been specially bred as a guide dog for the blind and will live with Rugby and his family for only one year. It’s not too hard for Rosie to win Rugby over with her persistent antics, and the two dogs become inseparable. When fall comes again, it is time for Rosie to leave the family and go to a special training school. Both Rugby and his boy must come to terms with the sudden absence of Rosie and the realization that she has a very important purpose as a working dog.”

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Senisi, Ellen B. 1998. *Just Kids: Visiting a Class for Children with Special Needs.*

From the jacket: “Based on a true incident at an upstate New York school, this book tells the experiences of a girl who visits a special-needs classroom and gets to know and understand the kids there. Cindy meets Richard, a lively, fascinating boy who also has autism. And she befriends Luis, who understands Spanish just like she does, but who also has Down syndrome. With Cindy as a guide, readers are introduced to an unforgettable group of kids and to a wide range of handicapping conditions – epilepsy, Down syndrome, autism, ADHD, learning disabilities, and more. They also see some of the activities and learning techniques used in a special-needs classroom, such as physical therapy, speech lessons, occupational therapy, and art therapy.”

Singer, Marilyn. 2000. *A Dog’s Gotta Do What a Dog’s Gotta Do.* ISBN: 0-8050-6074-

X. From the jacket: “Every dog is born with the ability to do a particular job. Centuries ago, people recognized these natural talents and began using dogs to help them with a variety of chores. Whether pulling sleds, helping disabled people, or serving in the military, these animals are much more than faithful friends. Here is a thrilling collection of fascinating facts and true tales about canine heroes who are just doing their jobs.”

Taylor, Theodore. 1981. *The Trouble with Tuck.* ISBN: 0-380-62711-6. From the back

cover: “No one can definitely say when Friar Tuck began to go blind. But the light probably began to fail for big Tuck long before any of us suspected it, and of course, being a dog, he couldn’t very well talk about it. It didn’t seem possible. Young, beautiful, so free-spirited, he had a long life ahead...’ Helen adored Tuck from the first moment he was placed in her arms, a squirming fat sausage of creamy yellow fur. And very soon Tuck returned her love. He faithfully slept on the rug beside her bed, guarded her against strangers, and rejoiced in their long walks together. So when Tuck began to lose his sight, Helen fought to be his eyes. She wouldn’t let his blindness end his life or even limit it. Instead, Helen thought up a unique solution to Tuck’s trouble, one that would keep Tuck free, proud, and hers forever.”

Turner, Pamela S. 2004. *Hachiko: The True Story of a Loyal Dog.* ISBN: 0-618-

14094-8. From the jacket: “Imagine walking to the same place every day to meet your best friend. Imagine watching hundreds of people pass by every morning and every afternoon. Imagine waiting, and waiting, and waiting. For ten years. That is what Hachiko did. Hachiko was a real dog who lived in Tokyo, a dog who faithfully waited for his owner at the Shibuya train station long after his owner could not come to meet him. He became famous for his loyalty and was adored by scores of people who passed through the station every day. This is Hachiko’s story as seen through the eyes of Kentaro, a young boy whose life is changed forever by his friendship with this very special dog.”

Warshauer, Sherry Bennett. 1998. *Everyday Heroes: Extraordinary Dogs Among Us.*

ISBN: 0-87605-608-7. From the jacket: “In this heartwarming and inspiring book you

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will find the true stories of dogs who were raised and nurtured by volunteers from Guiding Eyes for the Blind. We call the dogs ‘heroes’ because of their work as extraordinary guide dogs as well as crime fighters, lifesavers, search and rescue dogs and much more. Some of the heroes you will meet are Aris, an exceptionally sensitive dog whose nurturing created a bridge that led a disabled child to a new world of confidence and love; Hutch, a dog who saved his owner’s life due to his intuition and quick response; and Woodsy, an invaluable narcotics detection dog. You will be amazed at the boundless effort these dogs continue to make to improve the lives of those they serve.

Weisbord, Merrily & Kachanoff, Kim D.V.M. 2000. *Dogs with Jobs: Working Dogs around the World*. ISBN: 0-671-04735-3. From the jacket: “Brimming with color and black-and-white photos, *Dogs with Jobs* tells the true stories of those who rescue, detect, entertain, herd, protect, and serve for a living...From exotic locales around the globe to our everyday homes and workplaces, get to know the wonder dogs who track and capture fugitives, sense the warning signs of epileptic seizures in their owners, rescue earthquake victims, dive from water-rescue helicopters, assist the physically disabled, compete internationally, locate missing pets, safeguard forest and endangered species and more.”

Westridge Young Writers Workshop. 1994. *Kids Explore the Gifts of Children with Special Needs*. ISBN: 1-56261-156-9. From the back cover: “Written by third- to six-[sic]graders, *Kids Explore the Gifts of Children with Special Needs* profiles ten courageous young people, answering children’s questions about disabilities with candor and sensitivity.” “Each chapter tells what it is like to live with a particular disability – Shawn’s fetal alcohol syndrome, Gena’s hearing impairment, Joe’s blindness, Mikelle’s cerebral palsy – but the emphasis is on what each person can accomplish, enjoys doing, and dreams of for the future...” Booklist.

Woomer, Christine C. & Charchan, Kimberlee. 2002. *The Story of Trapper: A Friend for Life*. ISBN: 0-9643198-1-0. From the back cover: “*The Story of Trapper*...Meet Matthew who shares his experience with the newest member of his family, Trapper, a very special golden Retriever. Learn how Trapper’s arrival changes the lives of the entire family, not just Matthew’s mom, who Trapper has been trained to assist.”

Note: U.S. Hogs For Dogs, Inc. provides this suggested reading list as a resource for educators in the classroom. Not all books may be suitable for all ages. The appropriateness and suitability of these books are left to the educator’s professional discretion.